

June 6, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair Pro Term
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David Sanders, Ph.D.
Director

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: CONCERNS REGARDING CHILDREN
SLEEPING AT EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMAND POST**

This is to follow up with the request of the Second and Third Districts and the Commission for Children and Families regarding concerns that children are sleeping at the Child Protection Hotline (CPH) and Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP). In addition, they want to know if children are being placed at Juvenile Hall or Probation Camps since the MacLaren Children's Center (MCC) closure in March 2003.

- Some children, usually teens with long or involved histories of placement, are spending significantly more time at ERCP due to a paucity of resources for their particular needs now that MCC has closed. Following is a chart which provides the number of children who awaited placement at the Command Post for four hours or more:

Month	Number of Children Awaiting Placement at the Command Post
March 2003	1
April 2003	7
May 2003	20

- We are having greater difficulty finding placements for these children. Group Homes and FFAs are calling the Hotline after hours and then insist that we remove the child. In many instances, we are obligated to replace those children if it is believed that children are a threat or danger to themselves and others.

As to the Commissioners' concern that children are being placed at Juvenile Hall or Probation Camps, it must be noted that the Department and ERCP in particular are not initiating any such movement. In fact, due to an agreement with Probation, ERCP appears to be receiving many more children directly from Juvenile Halls.

In order to get more in-depth information on this issue, Donna Rose, Probation Director, Intake and Detention Control, Central Juvenile Hall, was contacted. Ms. Rose indicated that Juvenile Hall intake has steadily climbed to a peak since the beginning of April 2003, but that the causes for the increase are not known.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Helen Berberian at (213) 351-5530.

Thank you.

DS:EM:dw

Attachment

c: County Counsel
Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisor